

For Immediate Release

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Funding included for key grant programs and the Transportation Security Administration to keep New Jersey – 13 safe

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congressman Sires supported H.R. 2892, the fiscal year 2010 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, which passed the House by a vote of 389 to 37. This bill makes a number of key investments in the First Responder Grant Programs to include: \$887 million for Urban Area Grants, \$250 million for Transit Grants, \$800 million for Fire Grants and \$40 million for Emergency Operations Centers.

“The \$3.55 billion included for the First Responder Grant Programs are critical to New Jersey’s 13th District,” said Congressman Sires. “This funding will go a long way toward ensuring the safety of my constituents and securing important infrastructure in a densely populated area such as Northern New Jersey.”

Funding for H.R. 2892 totals \$42.63 billion and also includes \$7.7 billion in needed funding for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). About \$1 billion will go towards purchasing and installing explosive detection systems at airports, \$61 million for surface transportation security inspectors, \$123 million for TSA to meet the 100-percent air cargo security screening mandates, as well as \$804 million for the Customs and Border Protection to develop and deploy systems to screen cargo containers.

“My district contains – what the Department of Homeland Security refers to as – the most dangerous two-mile stretch in the country. Funding that ensures our first responders are adequately prepared is critical, and funding to guarantee the safety of our transportation infrastructure is vital to the safety of my community,” said Congressman Sires.

H.R. 2892 now awaits Senate action.

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